

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

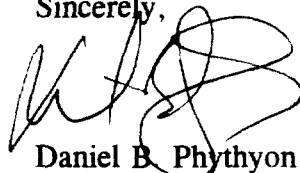
station be responsible for the airing of a minimum amount of core children's programming in its market).

With respect to connecting our nation's classrooms to the Internet, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 establishes the principle that elementary and secondary schools and classrooms, health care providers, and libraries should have access to advanced telecommunications services, and allows the FCC to designate additional, special services for universal service support for such entities, if eligible. As part of its implementation of the Telecommunications Act, the FCC is currently seeking comment on what services should be made available to schools, libraries, and rural health care providers at a discount.

Finally, while we have committed to Senator Dole that any award of licenses for Advanced Television Services will be made only in compliance with the express intent of Congress, Chairman Hundt and others have discussed the possible benefits of quantifying broadcasters' public interest obligations as they begin to operate in a digital, multichannel world.

We appreciate receiving Mr. Freeman's comments, which will be made part of the record in our children's television and universal service rulemaking proceedings. Please do not hesitate to call us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Phythyon", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel B. Phythyon
Director
Office of Legislative
and Intergovernmental Affairs

J. BENNETT JOHNSTON
LOUISIANA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1802

nmb
mm

December 12, 1995

149

Ms. Judith L. Harris
Director, Office of Legislative and
Intergovernmental Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 808
Washington, D.C. 20554

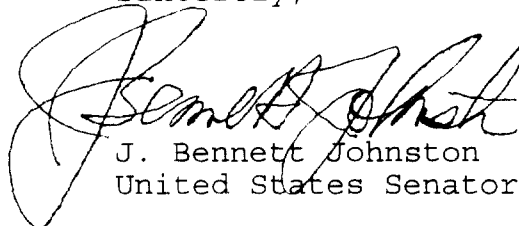
Dear Ms. Harris:

Because of my desire to be responsive to all inquiries, I respectfully request your consideration of the enclosed material.

I will appreciate your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with the return of the enclosures ~~by January 12,~~ 1996.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



J. Bennett Johnston
United States Senator

JBj/kwb
Enclosure

THOMAS D. FREEMAN

4617 Cleveland Place
Metairie, Louisiana 70003

November 9, 1995

11/2/95

Senator J. Bennett Johnston
136 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnston

Attached please find a copy my letter to Mr. Reed E. Hundt, Chairman of the FCC. I wrote this letter in reply to his request for input concerning his expansion plans.

I think you will find the letter self explanatory and perhaps you will remember it when you are spending our funds to buy Mr. Hundt's ticket on the expanded super highway of government.

I thank you for entertaining my opinions and hope that they play some small part in your decisions.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas D. Freeman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

THOMAS D. FREEMAN

TDF/cg
Encl.: (2)

THOMAS D. FREEMAN

4617 Cleveland Place
Metairie, Louisiana 70003
Telephone 504-887-0495
November 9, 1995

Mr. Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
FCC
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt

I read your letter in the November 6, 1995, issue of the New Orleans Times Picayune with interest and, as you requested, I offer you some of my thoughts and reactions.

It is my understanding that the mission of the FCC is to police the airways with regard to subject matter that is not permitted rather than for it to dictate content that must be included. While you pursue your blueprint for expansion and attempt to take over the function of education, it appears that neglect of your primary duties has resulted in a condition allowing some commercial radio and television stations to operate as cesspools of anti-social behavior that contribute to the steady decline of the country's moral fiber.

In your letter, I see evidence of a government agency run amok; I see a bureaucrat attempting to expand the size of his kingdom and its importance, his power and his budget. There is nothing original in this; it is a common and accepted practice that is largely responsible for the Federal Government's obesity and growing financial crisis.

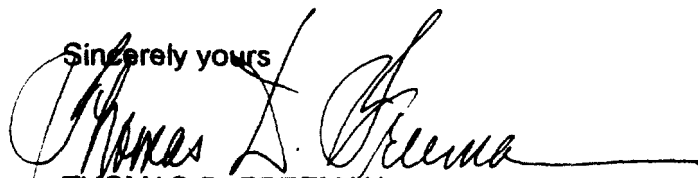
In addressing the potential increase in the number of broadcast stations, you foster what you describe as their use for 'public interest purposes', 'educational programming' and 'nonpartisan debate of political issues'. This is nothing but the worn and discredited argument used to defend Public Broadcasting; an institution that has evolved into a tax payer funded pulpit for liberal ideas and a refuge for those who have a problem making it in real life. Unless I am mistaken, the tax payers recently sent a message that they are sick and tired of tax money being used to finance the pseudo culture, left wing propaganda and the occasional downright filth on PBS.

Mr. Hundt, this citizen believes that your bureaucratic kingdom should shrink along with the other federal government programs, bureaus, commissions and the plethora of insatiable sponges that are sucking the beleaguered tax-payer dry.

I have noticed lately a tendency of hustlers to utilize the dramatic phrase, '*entering the 21st century*' as if something miraculous will or should take place that day. My hope is that when you politicians are riding the super highway into the 21st century, you will take cognizance of the sign posts that say STOP to the proliferation of government and the pleas to allow citizens to keep and spend more of what they earn on the things they want.

Incidentally, I believe that the very existence of your 'Consumer Assistance Branch' proves my point with regard to bloating.

Sincerely yours


THOMAS D. FREEMAN

TDF/cg

The Times-Picayune

ASHTON PHELPS

Chairman of the Board 1967-1983

*Issued daily by The Times-Picayune Publishing Corp. at
3800 Howard Ave., New Orleans, La. 70140*

ASHTON PHELPS JR.
President and Publisher

JIM AMOSS
Editor

MALCOLM FORSYTH
Associate Editor, Editorials

PETER KOVACS
Associate Editor, News

DAN SHEA
Associate Editor, News

YOUR OPINIONS | Letters

Plea from the FCC chairman

Washington

As telecommunications reform legislation winds its way through Congress, the Federal Communications Commission faces an expanded role as protector of the public interest. But even under present authority, the FCC finds itself in a position to change fundamentally the way telecommunications policy serves America's children.

I am asking your help in ensuring that your readers, and all Americans, are involved in the debate. The results can transform the lives of our children as we take the Information Superhighway into the 21st century.

With the public's support, the commission could:

- ▶ Make sure that every broadcast television station shows a minimum amount of children's educational programming every week.
- ▶ Make sure that every classroom in the country has access to the Internet, electronic mail and distance learning.
- ▶ Make sure that broadcast television stations tell TV guides in local newspapers what shows are

appropriate for children and what are too violent for children.

▶ Make sure that when, as Congress has asked, we give \$40 billion of the public's airwaves to broadcast television stations so they can have four times as many channels, some percentage of the new programming will be devoted to public interest purposes such as educational programming and nonpartisan debate of political issues.

But if the public wants these results, it needs to speak out. On these or any subjects relating to the impact on our country, and especially our children, I ask that the public write to FCC, Consumer Assistance Branch, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554 or call us at (202) 418-0200 or e-mail me at "rhundt@fcc.gov."

The industry is telling us what it thinks; the public should let us know where it stands before these issues are decided for them.

Reed E. Hundt
*Chairman,
FCC*